



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

JUNE 2020

NEWS



Thank you, dairy producers, for your hard work and commitment to community


In June, we celebrate National Dairy Month. Every day is a good day to enjoy tasty dairy treats and remember the health benefits that dairy products provide! Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative supports our members who are dairy producers, and thanks them for all they do.

What's inside:

- **Annual Meeting postponed**
- **Youth Tour cancelled**
- **Pole testing scheduled**
- **Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation discounts**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**



**Lights. Comfort.
Connection.**



Annual Meeting

RESCHEDULED FOR VIRTUAL CONNECTION

AUG. 20 ON BEK TV

Watch for information in the coming weeks to learn how you can vote by mail-in ballot for the open board of director positions.

Annual Meeting rescheduled for Aug. 20, 2 p.m. CT on BEK TV

Due to the COVID-19 emergency declaration and limitations on public gatherings, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors has decided for the safety of its members to reschedule the 2020 Annual Meeting as a virtual meeting, which will be televised on BEK TV on Aug. 20 at 2 p.m. CT. All voting for this year's Annual Meeting will take place

by mail, as permitted by your cooperative's bylaws and policies. The voting will include the election of the board of director positions for Grant County, Sioux County and Mandan Area.

Please look for details in the ballot packet you will receive on or around July 20. ■

Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for five Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for re-election. The three board positions sought include: one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan-Area position, and one for the Sioux County position.

The board of directors set March 10 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 19. At that meeting, the committee declared that the candidates' names they received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of

eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 25, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

Grant County:

Casey Wells, Carson

Mandan Area:

Stan Boehm, Mandan
Bob J. Leingang, Mandan

Sioux County:

Rodney Froelich, Selfridge
Randal J. White Sr., Selfridge

WHERE TO GET HELP

- NDSU Extension offers resources for dealing with farm/ranch stress: www.ag.ndsu.edu/farmranchstress
- Abound Counseling at LSSND offers in-person and statewide telehealth counseling services. Payment options include sliding fee, health insurance and no-fee options through LSSND's Abundant Care fund: (701) 223-1510
- In an emergency, call 9-1-1
- For First Link Help Line, call 2-1-1
- National suicide-prevention hotline (available 24 hours/day): (800) 273-8255

For non-emergency situations, speak with your health care professional about mental-health services in your area.

WEARING OUT YOUR BOOTSTRAPS?

HELP IS AVAILABLE.



In North Dakota, we expect a lot from our bootstraps.

Farmers and ranchers learn early on how to troubleshoot almost any foreseeable challenge and to take care of our own problems.

But sometimes life throws more at us than even the strongest bootstraps can support. It's not because we're weak or whiny. It's because we are human and life is just plain tough sometimes.

Everyone - whether they show it or not - can feel sad or frustrated or overwhelmed, and it doesn't mean they are failures. Those feelings are just information, like a temperature gauge or "check engine" lights. It's a cue that something needs to be corrected before it can be up and running again.



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENNEY

Pole testing scheduled

Mor-Gran-Sou began annual pole testing in May, starting in Morton County north of the Cannonball River near Solen. When work in the north area is complete, ending around Huff, testing will continue in Sioux County, working from Solen south to the South Dakota border.

The inspection consists of team members accessing all cooperative distribution lines using four-wheelers, and testing each pole for rot or other damage.

For your safety and theirs, do not approach the pole testing crew. We wish to be prudent and continue practicing social distancing.

We thank our members for their understanding as we work to make the system as reliable as possible. ■

Youth Tour cancelled for 2020



The annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, scheduled this year from June 20 to 26, was cancelled the middle of April due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jim Matheson, chief executive officer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said, "There will certainly be a void in Washington, D.C., without the 2020 Youth Tour."

Brynn Gaebe, a graduating sophomore who attends Century High School in Bismarck, won Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's essay contest this spring and had planned on going. She is the daughter of Mor-Gran-Sou members Lance and Terryl Gaebe, who have an account served by Mor-Gran-Sou near Glen Ullin.

We understand the trip was cancelled to protect the students, and we support the decision. We also know Brynn was looking forward to traveling to our nation's capital and exploring museums, memorials and monuments for one amazing week of learning.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric has offered to send Brynn on next year's Youth Tour, scheduled for June 19 to 25, 2021. She has accepted! Thank you, Brynn, for waiting a year. It will be worth it! We know the pandemic will continue to evolve, but it is our hope to still give you that hands-on history lesson and help develop your leadership skills in Washington, D.C. We look forward to having you represent Mor-Gran-Sou on next year's Youth Tour! ■



Keeping our electric system as reliable as possible

Tree trimming and tree removal in the right-of-way is a regular part of your electric cooperative's operations. Mor-Gran-Sou, like all electric utilities, is required to maintain appropriate clearance between trees and electric transmission and distribution lines. Trees need to be trimmed, and in some cases removed, to minimize potential power blinks and outages, and to eliminate fire and safety hazards due to trees contacting energized electric lines.

Mor-Gran-Sou will have crews operating within our service area starting in June. Work will occur system-wide.

The tree-trimming crews are working on your cooperative's behalf to help keep our electric system as reliable and safe as possible. ■



Sign up to receive text messages

Innovation is a core value at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. As advancing technologies become available, we utilize them to benefit our membership.

One of the communication tools offered by SmartHub is text messaging. These timely messages would alert our members to planned power outages, billing information, upcoming events and other important notices.

Please sign up for this additional communications tool!

To sign up through SmartHub, follow these steps:

Website instructions at www.morgransou.com:

1. Log onto SmartHub by clicking My Account, upper right-hand corner of home page. Find notifications on the blue header.
2. Hover over notifications; choose manage contacts. A box will appear. Find your mobile phone number; click edit. If your mobile phone number does not appear, please add it.
3. A “contact settings” window appears. Click the box that says receive text messages. A black check mark indicates you will receive text messages.
4. **Manage other notifications.** Return to the blue header; find notifications. Hover over notifications and select manage notifications. A screen will appear with categories for billing or miscellaneous. Click a category; there are many notification types under each category.
5. For each notification type, choose if you would like to be notified by email or text or both. Save your settings. Do this for both categories if you wish.

1 Welcome

2 Manage My Usage

3 Confirm Contact

4 Manage Notifications

5 Manage Notifications

Alert Type	Description	Text Message
Bill Available	This is a notification to inform you when your bill is available in SmartHub.	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
Billing Change	This is a notification to inform you when you change your billing options from SmartHub.	None
Credit Card Expiration	This is a notification to inform you when your billing credit card is about to expire.	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
Declined Auto Pay	This is a notification to inform you that your automatic credit card payment was not processed.	None
Payment Confirmation	This is a notification to inform you we received your payment submission.	None
Scheduled Payment Notification	Scheduled Payment Notification	None



Cell phone or tablet instructions:

1. Log onto SmartHub. For cell phone: Click more at the bottom of the screen. Next click settings; then click contact methods. For tablet: Click settings at the bottom of the screen. Next click contact methods.
2. Find your mobile phone number and click the right arrow.
3. An “add or edit phone contact” window appears. Move the slide to confirm. The colored slide indicates you will receive text messages.
4. **Manage other notifications.** Return to settings. Select manage notifications. A screen will appear with categories for billing, miscellaneous and service. Click a category; there are many notification types under each category.
5. Follow step five listed on the previous page in website instructions.

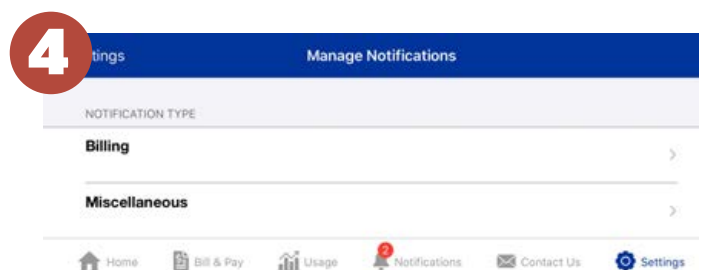
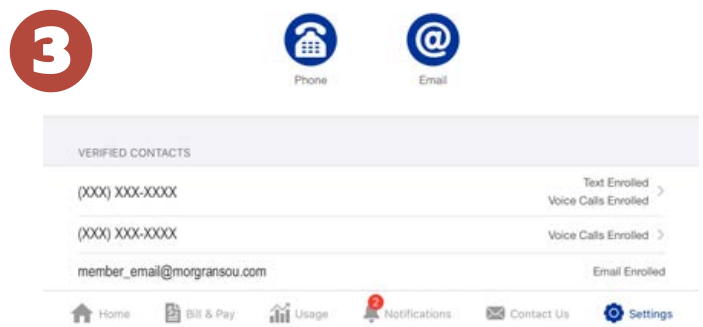
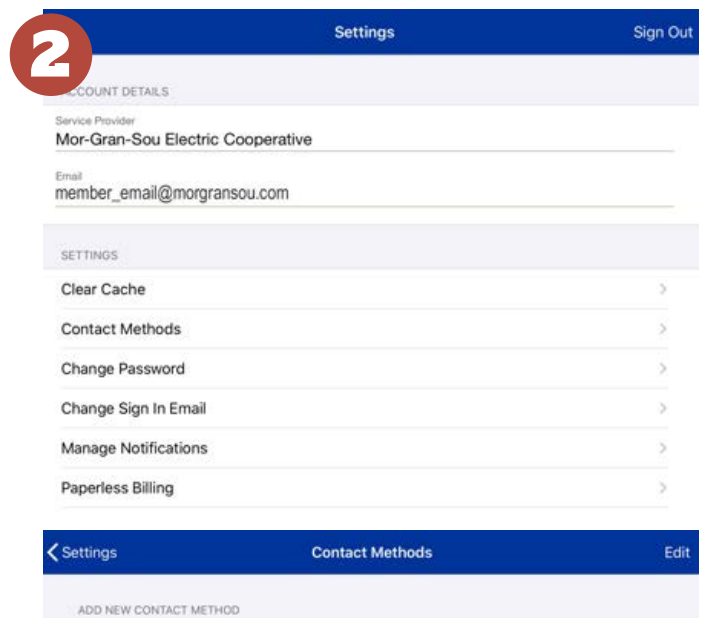
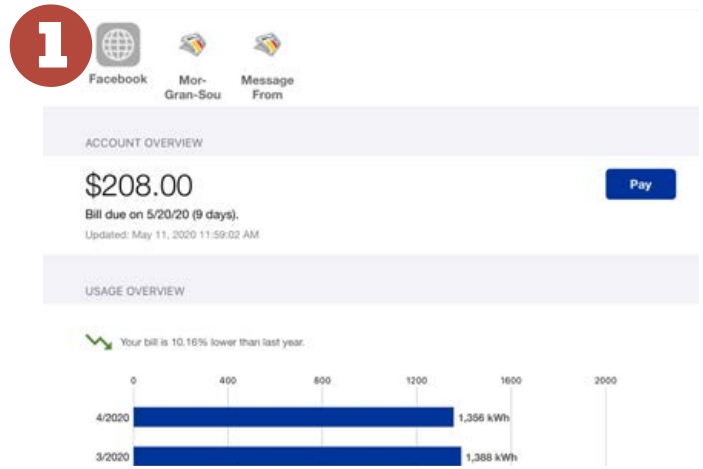
* If you are entering your phone number for the first time, you may need to accept Text Terms and Conditions. Once you accept, a verification code will be sent via text. Enter the code to finalize your enrollment.

Please check your phone plan to ensure your plan has unlimited texting. Some plans bill the recipient for each text message received, and we don't want to cause a financial hardship.

You will not be able to reply or text the cooperative. This tool is only set up for Mor-Gran-Sou to send, and not receive, messages.

If you need assistance, we are happy to help! Call Julie at Mor-Gran-Sou at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212, and she will walk you through it.

Thank you, members, for giving us another way to communicate with you and keep you up-to-date!





Safety poster contest winners announced

Area youth offer ideas on safety around electricity

Mor-Gran-Sou continues to receive a strong message from children in the area as 101 posters were received for the annual poster coloring contest. The posters were judged by employees during the all-employee meeting on March 12.

Students were instructed to concentrate on the following topic: *How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?* We had a wide variety of scenes showing safety around the home and farm communities.

Mor-Gran-Sou hopes the contest made the students more aware of their responsibility in practicing safety around electricity. We wish our young people a great summer and remind them to stay safe when working or playing around electricity.

2020 safety posters winning a cash prize include:

Preschool through kindergarten:

1. **First place:** *McKenna Ruscheinsky*, daughter of Travis and Alisha Ruscheinsky, Carson

2. **Second place:** *Casey Frank*, son of Damon and Micah Frank, Shields
3. **Third place:** *Rebekka Bohl*, daughter of Robert and Tasha Bohl, Flasher

Grades one through three:

1. **First place:** *Khloe Vetter*, daughter of Lee and Kelli Vetter, Selfridge
2. **Second place:** *Harper Meyer*, daughter of Josh and TaSheena Meyer, Flasher
3. **Third place:** *Jaeger Boldt*, son of CJ Boldt, Carson and Heidi Boldt, Flasher

Grades four through six:

1. **First place:** *Johnny Blend*, son of Justin and Jessica Blend, New Salem
2. **Second place:** *Darron Frank*, son of Darrick and Chassie Frank, Shields
3. **Third place:** *Madalyn Bohl*, daughter of Robert and Tasha Bohl, Flasher

PRESCHOOL THROUGH KINDERGARTEN





**GRADES ONE
THROUGH THREE**



**GRADES FOUR
THROUGH SIX**



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE *board meeting highlights*



Meeting date: April 22, 2020

- Approved the March 25, 2020, Board meeting minutes
- Approved the April 8, 2020, Special Board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Approved a work order inventory
- Approved the capital credit refund applications to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed the directors' expense report
- Reviewed the financial report for March
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs updates, and reports on meetings
- Heard update on Cooperative's ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic
- Approved postponement of the 2020 Annual Meeting
- Accepted the annual Audit report
- Reviewed safety information

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

June 24
by conference call or at
the NDAREC office, Mandan

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at ctermes@morgransou.com, or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Casey Wells or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund at 701-597-3301 at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form. You can find this form at www.morgransou.com, or contact the Flasher office to request a copy.

Spend the day in Medora — and save

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2020** at the door.

Mor-Gran-Sou members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2020**, make reservations and receive your savings.

Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed Friday, July 3, to honor the Independence Day holiday

Mor-Gran-Sou wishes our members a Happy Fourth of July, as we celebrate our history and heritage! Line crews will be available in case of an emergency or power outage by calling **701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212.**

Happy Father's Day Sunday, June 21

"A dad is a son's first hero and a daughter's first love." ~ Unknown



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Casey Wells
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Lance Froelich
Directors Mark Doll, Vernard Frederick,
Pam Geiger, Jay Larson,
Bob J. Leingang, Kathy Tokach

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO..... Donald A. Franklund
Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

www.morgransou.com

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